

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Appointment of and Allocation of Seats on Committees</b>	<b>Item 10</b>
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	<b>Council</b>	

**Purpose of Report:**

To consider the appointment of and allocation of seats on Committees and associated bodies for the next Municipal Year.

**Recommendations:**

- (1) To note that under Paragraph 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, notice has been received that the Members set out in paragraph 1.1 of this report are to be regarded as Members of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups respectively.
- (2) To agree the appointment of the various, Committees and Area Forums and to the number of places on each as set out in paragraph 2.1.
- (3) To agree that under Regulation 20 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Proportionality Rules) not be applied to the appointment of Members to Area Forums and the four Area Planning Sub-Committees.
- (4) To agree to the reappointment of Mr James Rees and Mrs Margaret Hancock as the Independent Members on the Council's Standards Committee until May 2006.
- (5) To agree to the allocation of seats to the Political Groups in accordance with Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Paragraph 3.4 refers).
- (6) To approve the appointment of Members' to the Committees as set out in Appendix 10 (to follow) and in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups.

**Reason for decision to be taken:**

To accord with the Council's Constitution which requires the Council to appoint Committees, to decide on the size of the Committees and to appoint Members to them having regard to the provisions of Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

**List of other options considered:**

None.

**Key background documentation:**

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

**Portfolio Member:** Leader of the Council

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## Supporting Information

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### 1. Political Groups

- 1.1 In accordance with Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the under-mentioned Members have given notice of their wish to be regarded as Members of the Political Groups set out below:

<b>Conservative Political Group</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat Political Group</b>
Councillor Barbara Alexander	Councillor Trevor Banning
Councillor Peter Argyle	Councillor Phil Barnett
Councillor Brian Bedwell	Councillor Jeff Brooks
Councillor Paul Bryant	Councillor Valerie Bull
Councillor George Chandler	Councillor Billy Drummond
Councillor John Chapman	Councillor Susan Farrant
Councillor Keith Chopping	Councillor John Farrin
Councillor Geoff Findlay	Councillor Denise Gaines
Councillor Marcus Franks	Councillor Sally Hannon
Councillor Kathleen French	Councillor Sandra Harding
Councillor Manohar Gopal	Councillor Roger Hunneman
Councillor Graham Jones	Councillor Owen Jeffery
Councillor Susie Kemp	Councillor Bob Judge
Councillor Andrew Kilgour	Councillor Keith Lock
Councillor Tony Linden	Councillor Mollie Lock
Councillor Gordon Lundie	Councillor Royce Longton
Councillor Tim Metcalfe	Councillor Alan Macro
Councillor Joe Mooney	Councillor James Mole
Councillor Irene Neill	Councillor Alexander Payton
Councillor Graham Pask	Councillor Terence Port
Councillor Andrew Rowles	Councillor Paul Pritchard
Councillor Anthony Stansfield	Councillor Michael Rodger
Councillor Quentin Webb	Councillor Caroline Suggett
Councillor Chris Webber	Councillor Julian Swift-Hook
Councillor Emma Webster	Councillor Tony Vickers
Councillor Laszlo Zverko	Councillor Keith Woodhams

#### **Recommendation:**

**To note that under Paragraph 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, notice has been received that the Members set out in paragraph 1.1 of this report are to be regarded as Members of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups respectively.**

## 2. Appointment of Committees and Sub-Committees

- 2.1 In accordance with Paragraph 4.1.2.1 of the Constitution, the Council is required to appoint Committees, Area Forums and other Member bodies that are not part of the Executive. It is proposed that Council appoint the under-mentioned Committees, Sub-Committees and Area Forums with the number of places shown for each.

Body	Number of Seats
Children and Young People Select Committee	14 (plus four voting co-optees on education issues).
Community Care and Housing Select Committee	14
Environment and Public Protection Select Committee	14
Strategy and Commissioning Select Committee	14
Planning and Development Committee	12
Licensing Committee	12
Area Forums (Downlands, Eastern, Newbury and Kennet and Pang Valley)	(All Members of the Wards covered).
Standards Committee	5 (Two Members of West Berkshire Council, two Independent Members and one parish/Town Council representative). The external Membership (Independent Members') of this Committee were agreed at the Council meeting on 28 February 2002 until 2004. See Paragraph 2.4.

- 2.2 The total number of seats on Committees is therefore 80 given that the Standards Committee falls outside the provisions of Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- 2.3 In accordance with Regulation 16A and 20 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, it is recommended that Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 not be applied to the appointment of Members to Area Forums and Area Planning Sub-Committees.
- 2.4 In relation to the two Independent Members' of the Standards Committee, both Mr James Rees and Mrs Margaret Hancock have confirmed that they would be prepared to continue to support the activities of the Standards Committee and it is therefore recommended that they be re-appointed until May 2006.

**Recommendation:**

- (1) That the Council agrees to the appointment of the above Committees and Area Forums with the number of places on each as shown.
- (2) That, in accordance with Regulation 16A and 20 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Proportionality Rules) be not applied in relation to the appointment of Members to Area Forums and Area Planning Sub-Committees.
- (3) That Mr James Rees and Mrs Margaret Hancock be re-appointed as Independent Members' on the Standards Committee until May 2006.

**3. Allocation of Seats**

3.1 The political balance of the Council currently stands as follow:

	<b>Number of Members</b>	<b>Political Composition %</b>
Liberal Democrat Group	26	50%
Conservative Group	26	50%
	<b>52</b>	<b>100%</b>

3.2 In allocating seats on Committees, the Council must give effect, so far as reasonably practical, to the principles contained in Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 which may be summarised as follows:

- (1) Not all seats on any Committee are to be allocated to the same political group;
- (2) The majority of seats on any Committee must be allocated to the majority Group.
- (3) Subject to (1) and (2) above, the number of seats on ordinary Committees must be allocated to each political Group in the same proportion as their representation on the Council.
- (4) Subject to (1) and (3) above, the number of seats on any Committee must be the same proportion as the political Groups representation on full Council.

3.3 Based on 80 seats, the "basket" principle and the normal rules of rounding the following number of seats would therefore be allocated to each Group.

Liberal Democrats	80 x 50% =	40
Conservatives	80 x 50% =	40
<b>Total</b>		<b>80</b>

3.4 The seats on Committees will therefore be allocated as follows:

Committee	Total Number of Seats	Liberal Democrats	Conservatives	Co-opted
Strategy and Resources Select Committee	14	7	7	
Community Care and Housing Select Committee	14	7	7	
Environment and Public Protection Select Committee	14	7	7	
Children and Young People Select Committee	14	7	7	4
Planning and Development Committee	12	6	6	
Licensing Committee	12	6	6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>4</b>

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Council agrees to the allocation of seats to the political Groups as set out above.

#### 4. Substitutes

4.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Council is required to determine the number of substitute Members that may be appointed in respect of each Committee/Sub-Committee/Panels. The current numbers of substitutes for each is as follows:

Select Committees/Planning and Development Committee	4 per Political Group
All other Sub-Committees/Panels	2 per Political Group
Licensing Committee	No substitutes permitted

4.2 In respect of the Area Planning Sub-Committees, the substitute Members are all Members representing wards within the Sub-Committee's area who are not appointed to the Sub-Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Council agree to each Political Group appointing the number of substitutes listed above.

#### 5. Appointment to Committees

5.1 Attached as Appendix 10 is a list of Committees/Panels and nominations from each Political Group.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Council approves the appointment of Members to Committees and Area Forums in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups as set out in Appendix 10.

#### Appendices

Appendix 10 – Nomination of Members to Committees/Area Forums (*to follow*)

## **Implications**

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<b>Policy:</b>	There are no policy implications associated with this report.
<b>Financial:</b>	There are no financial implications associated with this report.
<b>Personnel:</b>	There are no personnel implications associated with this report.
<b>Legal:</b>	The allocation of seats to Political Groups is in accordance with Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
<b>Environmental:</b>	There are no environmental implications associated with this report.
<b>Equalities:</b>	There are no equality implications associated with this report.
<b>Partnering:</b>	There are no Partnering implications associated with this report.

## **Consultation Responses**

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<b>Local Stakeholders:</b>	n/a
<b>Officers Consulted:</b>	David Holling, Nick Carter
<b>Trade Union:</b>	n/a